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Page: 1

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03890 291958Z
ACTION ARA-16

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R 291921Z JUN 82
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4335

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify () In Part (X) In Full DECLASSIFIED

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 3890

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, AR
SUBJECT: THE LATEST "DISAPPEARANCES"

1. THE GOVERNMENT RESPONDED TO HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS DEMONSTRATING QUIETLY IN THE PLAZA DE MAYO JUNE 28 BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE REPORTED OVER THE WEEKEND TO HAVE DISAPPEARED IN SEPARATE INCIDENTS WERE IN FACT DETAINED BY POLICE. A CROWD OF ABOUT 200 MEMBERS OF A HALF DOZEN ORGANIZATIONS LED BY THE MOTHERS, THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY, (APDH) AND THE CENTER FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES (CELS) WENT TO THE PLAZA TO DENOUNCE THE CLAIMED DISAPPEARANCES LAST WEEK OF MIGUEL ANGEL DEL PLA, A 29 YEAD-OLD AUTO WORKER FROM CORDOBA, AND HECTOR EDGARD CASSINI, 45, SAID TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN BUENOS AIRES.

2. FOLLOWING THEIR COUTOMARY MARCH AROUND THE OBELISK, A DELEGATION OF THE DEMONSTRATORS' LEADERS WAS INVITED INTO THE CASA ROSADA. THEY HAD PETITIONED TO SEE INTERIOR MINISTER AND INTERIM PRESIDENT SAINT JEAN BUT WERE RECEIVED INSTEAD BY A FEDERAL POLICE COMMISSIONER. HE TOLD THEM DE PLA AND CASSINI WERE UNDER ATTEST, BUT REFUSED TO SAY WHAT CHARGES THE DETAINEES FACED OR TO RESPOND TO THE DEOMONSTRATIORS CLAIMS THAT DEL PLA

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03890 291958Z

HAD BEEN TORTURED. CASSINI, THE POLICE OFFICIAL ASSERTED WAS ARRESTED FOR PUBLIC DRUNKENESS AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON, CHARGES DENIED BY

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1982BUENOS03890

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

HIS WIFE WHO WAID HE WAS A NON-DRINKER.

3. COMMENT: IT IS UNUSUAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, WHO MORMALLY MARCH IN THE PLAZA ON THURSDAY BUT WHO TOOK SPECIAL MEASURES YESTERDAY TO BRING THE TWO "DISAPPEARED" CASES QUICKLY TO PUBLIC ATTENTION, TO BE RECIEVED AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE -- ALTHOUGH THE GALTIERI ADMINISTRATION DID APPEAR TO BE A BIT MORE FORTHCOMING ON THEIR DEMANDS FOR ANSWERS ABOUT THE DISAPPEARED THAN PREVIOUS REGIMES. GENERAL BIGNONE ALREADY IS

NOO (#)HAT THE QUESTIONS WON'T GO AWAY AND HE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER. AT HIS JUNE 24 MEETING WITH THE POLITICIANS, FEDERAL PARTY CHIEF MANRIQUE ASKED HIM ABOUT THE LIST OF DISAPPEARED SAINT JEAN HAD "PROMISED" BEFORE THE FALKLAND WAR. BIGNONE CONFESSED IGNORANCE OF ANY DISAPPEARED LIST, SAYING IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING ONLY A FULLY INVESTIGATION OF THE DISAPPEARED HAD BEEN PROMISED. BUT THIS UGLY RESIDUE OF ARGENTINA'S OTHER WAR, THE ONE AGAINST SUBVERSION IN THE 70S, STILL REMAINS TO BE CLEANED UP AT SOME TIME OR OTHER. SHLAUDEMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED